



TENNESSEE
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

P.O. Box 41505
Nashville, TN 37204-1505
1-800-626-0987

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

cooperating with
Tennessee Department
of Agriculture



Agri-News

Debra K. Kenerson
State Statistician

nass-tn@nass.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

COTTON AND SOYBEAN BENEFIT FROM AUGUST RAINS

August rains aided growth and development of the state's soybean and cotton crops, but dry conditions in the major tobacco producing areas caused a reduction in yield potential for the burley crop. Many areas across the State, especially in the eastern third, have been under severe stress from the lack of moisture. Crops, pastures, and livestock have all been negatively impacted by the hot, dry weather that has plagued this part of the state. Rains the last half of August in the middle and western portions of the state, however, increased the prospects of a more normal yield for soybeans and will likely improve the quality and quantity of the cotton crop. According to a September 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, yields improved from the previous month's forecast for soybeans and cotton, but declined for corn and burley tobacco. The September survey collects farmers' expectations of final yields assuming normal weather conditions through harvest and showed the following results: **Cotton**, 660 pounds of lint per acre, down 103 pounds from 2001; **Corn**, 106 bushels per acre, down 26 bushels from the previous year; **Soybeans**, 30 bushels per acre, 4 bushels less than a year ago; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,800 pounds per acre, 200 pounds below last year and the lowest since 1998. Other tobacco types are forecast at: **Type 22**, 2,900 pounds; **Type 23**, 3,100 pounds; and **Type 35**, 2,500 pounds per acre, all down from 2001.

COTTON FORECAST UP FROM LAST MONTH

Cotton production is forecast at 770,000 bales, 10,000 more bales than last month, but 21 percent below the previous year's record production. Yield is forecast at 660 pounds, 9 pounds better than the August forecast, but 103 pounds less than a year ago. Most cotton counties have received excellent amounts of rainfall during August which should add to expected crop yield and improve quality. However, a few areas experienced only widely, scattered showers, which has hindered normal boll development. The crop is rated in mostly good condition with defoliation underway. Harvest is expected to begin on schedule within the next week or two.

STATE'S CORN YIELDS DOWN

Tennessee's corn yield is forecast at 106 bushels per acre, down 26 bushels from last year's record high and 4 bushels below the August forecast. Corn production is forecast at 65.7 million bushels from 620,000 acres. Although planting of this year's corn crop got underway on time, development was slowed due to unseasonable cool, wet weather this spring. The crop has suffered difficulties with insects, unfavorable weather conditions, and flooding along the Mississippi River. During the months of June and July, crop development progressed ahead of the normal pace with only a few problems reported. The crop is virtually mature with 43 percent of the acreage harvested, ahead of last year and the 5-year average.

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN SIX PERCENT FROM 2001

The State's soybean production from 1.12 million acres is expected to total 33.6 million bushels, down 6 percent from last year. The average soybean yield is forecast at 30 bushels per acre, up a bushel from the August forecast, but down 4 bushels from 2001. Despite the extremely hot, dry beginning to August, the crop has received some relief from summer showers later in the month which aided growth and development. Producers have experienced only light to moderate insect pressure this summer. The crop is rated in fair to good condition with about one-fifth of the acreage dropping leaves.

(OVER)

BURLEY PRODUCTION LOWEST SINCE 1941

Tennessee’s burley tobacco growers expect to produce 54.0 million pounds, down 10,000 pounds from last year and if realized, the lowest production since 1941. The average yield is forecast at 1,800 pounds per acre from 30,000 acres. The State’s burley tobacco crop has experienced a mixed bag of development during the growing season. Some areas received timely rainfall at the optimum time. Unfortunately, the top producing areas in Middle and East Tennessee have seen infrequent widely scattered showers. Crop condition has ranged from good to very poor in the same vicinity within a county. Based on results from the September 1 survey, prospects of yields being at last year’s level are not favorable at this time. Yields per acre are forecast at 2,900 pounds for Type 22; 3,100 pounds for Type 23; and 2,500 pounds for Type 35, all unchanged from the August forecast, but down from last year.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2002, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2001	Indicated 2002	2001	Indicated 2002	2001	Indicated 2002
Thousands							
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	620	620	132	106	81,840	65,720
Cotton ¹	lb.	615	560	763	660	978	770
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,100	2,050	2.20	2.10	4,620	4,305
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,700	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,050	1,120	34.0	30.0	35,700	33,600
Tobacco, All	lb.	39.69	35.90	2,189	1,977	86,893	70,990
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	6.5	5.0	3,000	2,900	19,500	14,500
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.52	.40	3,175	3,100	1,651	1,240
Burley (31)	lb.	32.0	30.0	2,000	1,800	64,000	54,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.67	.50	2,600	2,500	1,742	1,250
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	330	54.0	46.0	18,360	15,180
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	—	---	---	---	9,629,100	9,205,600
Corn for grain	bu.	68,808	70,541	138.2	125.4	9,506,840	8,848,529
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,827.7	12,891.4	705	675	20,302.8	18,134.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.92	76,437	77,976
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,441,400	2,531,700
Soybeans	bu.	73,000	71,799	39.6	37.0	2,890,572	2,655,819
Tobacco, All	lb.	432.40	435.50	2,293	2,037	991,519	886,973
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	9.80	7.50	3,135	2,900	30,720	21,750
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	3.62	2.80	3,419	3,271	12,377	9,160
Burley (31)	lb.	164.30	161.50	2,033	1,888	334,066	304,880
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.42	2.70	2,821	2,581	9,648	6,970
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,295	29,764	43.5	38.9	1,361,479	1,158,710

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about September 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.###